

Attachment to Interview Summary

1. Applicant called to discuss possible amendments to the claims to distinguish over the cited art. In particular regarding Figure 5 of the Harsley '376 reference in contrast to Figures 16 and 17 of the instant application, applicant argued that the instant disclosed invention has a thin or narrow width wall portion aligned with the notch in the back of the aperture, while the wall portion width of Harsley '376 is greater behind the notch than in other portions of the wall. Applicant argued that Harsley '376 works by a spring action that allows stretch in the longitudinal direction without deformation out of the plane, while the instant invention works by folding about the longitudinal axis to form a saddle shape. The examiner indicated that unless structural features were amended into the claim, declaration evidence would have to be presented to show that Harsley '376 and the instant application function in different ways. The examiner also pointed out that Brown (U.S. 4,150,463), which is listed in the instant specification on page 2, shows a notch with a narrow or thin wall behind it in Figure 18, and that the reference also disclosed bending about a longitudinal axis. No agreement was reached on any proposed claim amendment.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Watkins III whose telephone number is 571-272-1503. The examiner works an increased flex time schedule, but can normally be reached Monday through Friday, 11:30 A.M. through 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time. The examiner returns all calls within one business day unless an extended absence is noted on his voice mail greeting.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on 571-272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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July 24, 2009

/William P. Watkins III/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794